

Memoranda :

MEDICAL, SURGICAL, OBSTETRICAL.

CASE OF OTITIC CEREBRO-SPINAL MENINGITIS: RECOVERY.

THERE have been lately reports by Davis,¹ Jenkins,² Martin,⁴ Askey,⁵ Layton,⁶ and Jobson⁷ of cases of otitic meningitis which recovered after various operative procedures. In only three cases (³, ⁵, ⁷), however, had organisms been cultured from the cerebro-spinal fluid. The following is worth recording, since recovery ensued without treatment after organisms had been grown from the cerebro-spinal fluid.

A boy, aged 9, underwent Schwartz's operation on the left side in December, 1922, at the Victoria Hospital for Children. He was readmitted, and on May 1st, 1923, the old incision was reopened and a radical mastoid operation performed. Extensive disease of the bone was found, with involvement of the roof of the tympanum. The diseased bone was removed, drainage established through the external auditory meatus, and the posterior wound closed.

The wound behind the ear broke down and discharged. On May 25th there was still considerable discharge from the meatus and from the wound. On May 24th, over three weeks after the operation, the patient vomited after his midday meal, and complained of severe headache; he continued to vomit all the afternoon, and his temperature rose to 101.4° F.

On May 25th there was slight rigidity of the neck and slightly increased tone in the hamstrings; lumbar puncture yielded a slightly turbid fluid under increased pressure. This was examined by Dr. Stanley Wyard, who reported as follows: "A clear, colourless fluid with deposit of pus. Many of the cells are lymphocytes. A few diplococci are seen. In cultures pneumococci alone grew."

The temperature that evening was 99.8° F. The next day the temperature was not raised. On May 27th the patient was sitting up and playing with toys and there was no headache. On May 28th he had severe headache again after vomiting once during the night; this passed off rapidly during the morning. On May 30th he was noted as "quite well."

On June 19th, on getting him up, an ataxic gait was noticed. He had a tendency to fall to the left, and the right shoulder was rotated forwards. By June 28th, 1923, he could walk steadily.

When seen in June, 1924, he was quite well, attending school, and apparently normal in all respects.

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REFERENCES.

¹ Davis: *Proc. Roy. Soc. Med.*, xv, 4, November 18th, 1921. ² Jenkins: *Ibid.*, xv, 8, February 17th, 1922. ³ Davis: *Ibid.*, xv, 9, March 17th, 1922. ⁴ Martin: *Lancet*, March 10th, 1923. ⁵ Askey: *Ibid.*, May 12th, 1923. ⁶ Layton: *Proc. Roy. Soc. Med.*, xvii, 4, November 3rd, 1923. ⁷ Jobson: *Ibid.*, xvii, 5, December 8th, 1923.

VAGINAL OCCLUSION: URINARY CALCULUS: CAESAREAN SECTION.

THE following case seems worthy of publication because of its general interest.

On April 29th, 1924, I was called to visit an East Indian woman who had been in labour for twelve hours. She was conveyed to the company's hospital. I found that there was absolute occlusion of the upper two-thirds of the vaginal canal due to a dense fibrous band. It was impossible to make out the cervix, and I could with great difficulty feel the apparent foetal head behind the adhesion. On the anterior vaginal wall, and in front of the adhesion, there was a hard calcareous mass, which on removal proved to be a phosphatic stone; it weighed 3.292 grams and measured in inches 1.115 by 0.907 by 0.478. On its removal, urine trickled into the vagina, proving the presence of a fistula. This fibrous obstruction, I take it, was due to the chronic irritation resulting from the fistula. The patient was well nourished and was having strong labour pains. Owing to the condition of the vagina I considered it justifiable to propose Caesarean operation; this was agreed to.

The anaesthetic (chloroform with ether) was administered by Dr. Murray, and Dr. Doyle assisted me in the operation. The abdomen was opened in the middle line. The uterus was exposed, and incised on its right anterior margin. The placenta was anterior; there was no difficulty in delivering this, and a full-term female child was delivered alive. Owing to the position of the placenta there was considerable haemorrhage, but this was controlled with hot salines and pituitrin. All clots were removed, and the lower abdominal cavity irrigated with saline. The incision in the uterus was sutured with interrupted silk and the abdomen closed in the orthodox manner. The patient did well up to the twelfth day, when she suddenly became maniacal and refused absolutely to take any nourishment; she died on the sixteenth day after the operation. The child is alive and healthy.

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Reviews.

THE MEDICAL HISTORY OF NAPOLEON.

DR. CABANÉS must be congratulated upon the publication of his book, *Au Chevet de l'Empereur*,¹ for it contains a complete and minute study of the medical history of the great Napoleon. To this subject Dr. Cabanés has brought his well known industry and skill in unravelling the maze of intricacies which surround the study of the illnesses and constitutional peculiarities of the emperor. The result is an excellent work, which may be safely consulted by those multitudes of readers who are always fascinated by anything which deals with the most representative man of modern times. From his birth to the tragic end of his stupendous career, Dr. Cabanés has traced and recorded all Napoleon's indispositions, great or small, and when commenting he has shown a praiseworthy restraint, which adds value to his work.

Those who have devoted time and attention to the medical side of Napoleon have found too often that it is almost impossible to approach the subject without becoming a partisan, for the career of Napoleon, although finished now for more than a century, still has the power to rouse all the fiercest passions that dominate mankind. Even when we study the last illness and death of Napoleon we find ourselves whirled into the vortex of the storm of contention that raged round his death-bed in St. Helena. Judgements become warped, passions are aroused, and we take our places on one side or the other of the contestants engaged in the strife. But Dr. Cabanés has been able in large measure to divest himself of this partisanship, and has maintained with success that spirit of cold, critical judgement which makes his work so valuable. In common with other workers in the field, he has a theory to account for the maladies of Napoleon, which culminated in death from cancer of the pylorus, in St. Helena, on May 5th, 1821, at 5.49 p.m. He believes that the varying phases of Napoleon's illness may be traced to the influence of an "arthritic diathesis," and he adduces evidence in favour of that supposition. He also calls attention to the unusual occurrence of both cancer and tuberculosis in the same subject, conditions which were found at the *post-mortem* examination of the emperor.

But theories are not so important as facts in connexion with Napoleon's medical history, and in this book can be found a mass of facts of the greatest use to the student of the subject. For the most part, Dr. Cabanés has used documentary evidence of an unimpeachable kind in support of his contentions, but when he comes to consider the last phase of Napoleon's illness—in St. Helena—it would have been better to have quoted the first-hand evidence to be found in the "Lowe Papers" in the British Museum and the documents in the Record Office, if only as a counter-balance to the statements of Montholon and other unswerving adherents to the cause of Napoleon at St. Helena. But, in spite of this, the accusations and recriminations which were indulged in by the parties gathered around that death-bed are treated by Dr. Cabanés with sobriety and judgement.

It is too much to expect that any new facts will be found concerning the illness of Napoleon at St. Helena, for the ground has been thoroughly explored by students in France and England. But Dr. Cabanés has contributed in this book one very important piece of documentary evidence which goes far to set at rest a controversy which arose about ten years ago concerning the authenticity of the two pieces of intestine in the Museum of the Royal College of Surgeons of England. These pieces of intestine were given by O'Meara to Sir Astley Cooper as coming from the body of Napoleon. But in a footnote on page 400, Dr. Cabanés quotes a letter of O'Meara to Sir Astley Cooper, in which O'Meara states in unequivocal terms that he has grave doubts concerning the authenticity of these specimens. It has never been stated who gave the specimens to O'Meara, but if he had doubts as to their origin it may well be asked what authority exists for asserting that they came from the body of Napoleon.

¹ *Au Chevet de l'Empereur*. Par le Docteur Cabanés. Paris: Albin Michel. 1924. (Extra post 8vo, pp. 441; illustrated. Fr. 15.)

imagined in an extensive practice which at that time kept three men working hard—the hardest worker and least self-sparing being Dr. Smith himself—there was no lack of material for discussion. Nor were those post-prandial clinics purely discursive—patients who were able were brought to the consulting room for clinical demonstration, and there Dr. Smith, without ever seeming to teach, yet taught us of the younger generation many things. Most important of all, he taught us to love our work and infected us with the tremendous enthusiasm which he ever manifested. He taught us, too, by example the importance of absolute thoroughness of examination. In obscure cases his hard-headed and cautious analysis of all the evidence of signs and symptoms might be called typically Scottish. His diagnoses were accurate because his methods were sound. To me these medical discussions were of great interest and value, but I think I enjoyed even more those rich evenings when, till well beyond midnight, we could listen to him discoursing on literature or philosophy, and sometimes get him to re-read a paper from those numerous contributions he made to literary and philosophic societies. His wide and varied knowledge of literature, his deep reading among the philosophers, and the evidences of his own thinking, made one wonder how his busy professional life left him any time for such recreations. With all this the social side of medicine was not neglected, and I retain happy memories of medical dinners to which he took me as his guest—dinners where the conversation was no less sparkling than the wine, and where his geniality and kindness added to the happiness of everyone.

The sense of duty, integrity, and honesty were manifest in him; hard work seemed but a pleasure to him. Deeply religious in the very truest sense of the word, he was an ideal doctor to serve under as an assistant. His was a temper to envy and to try to emulate—never hasty, never visibly angry, never put out by hurry or worries. He looked for and found the best in others, and his own best seemed ever to be uppermost. To those of us who knew of his movements and doings his death came with most tragic suddenness, for up to the end his enjoyment of life, one might almost say his youthfulness, was manifest. And yet I believe he would have had it no otherwise. All who have been privileged to be assistants to Andrew Smith mourn the loss of a sincere friend, and will carry with him to his own journey's end the memory of an able doctor and an upright man.

Dr. JOHN MACKENZIE died at his residence in Ingleton, Yorkshire, on June 30th, at the age of 69. He was born at Lochinver, Sutherlandshire, and was educated in Edinburgh, where he received the diplomas of L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S., and L.M. in 1881. He was district medical officer and public vaccinator for the parishes of Ingleton, Thornton in Lonsdale, and Burton in Lonsdale Settle Union. He was also a justice of the peace. His niece, Dr. MARION E. MACKENZIE, sends the following appreciation:

Dr. John MacKenzie of Ingleton, a country village in the Yorkshire hills, spent his life in the service of others, endearing himself to his patients by his cheery optimism and his ungrudging services. At times the pressure of work was almost unbearable, and this was the case during the epidemic of influenza last winter, which laid the seeds of the illness which ended his life. He had sometimes to walk to a house, inaccessible even in the days when he drove a dog-cart, and on one occasion he was only saved from being lost at the foot of Wherside in the snow by a light in a cottage window, all landmarks being obliterated. Summoned once for a visitor who had been exploring the caves and had fallen down a pothole 100 feet deep, the doctor was lowered by a rope and splinted the broken leg. This action was much admired by those to whom potholes were familiar, and since it took seventeen hours to get the patient out one can realize the difficulties involved. For the last three years of his life the pits were not working. During the whole of that time he attended the families of the miners, supplying them with medicines, without charge. It was characteristic of him that when faced with the

necessity of parting with his old gardener, he broke down and said he could not do it. On the Sunday following his death the vicar of the parish where he is buried compared Dr. MacKenzie's life to a river, with its strenuous overcoming of difficulties, its beauty, its trend towards the ocean—symbolic of the trend of man towards God. He added that on the day he was laid to rest the people had shown what they thought of him by coming in such numbers to pay a last tribute that the church could not hold them.

Dr. JOHN SAMUEL GREENE died at Estancia Bagual, Buenos Aires, on June 27th, aged 81. He received his medical education in Dublin at the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland, took the diplomas of L.R.C.S.I. and L.M. in 1863, L.R.C.P.I. in 1864, and became M.D. Montevideo and Buenos Aires in the early seventies. After serving for two years as surgeon to the Cape Mounted Rifles he settled in the Argentine in 1866, where he carried on a large practice. He more or less retired from active practice in 1890, and invested in landed property. His upright character and devotion to duty won for him the respect of a large circle of friends of all nationalities, as was shown by the attendance at the funeral ceremony on June 29th. His son is Dr. A. C. Greene of Grange-over-Sands.

Professor LUZZATTO, reader in microscopy and biochemistry in the University of Ferrara, Italy, died on July 13th at the age of 50. He had published a considerable number of papers on various medical subjects, and an important monograph on the cystic kidney.

Universities and Colleges.

UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD.

At a congregation held on August 6th the degree of Bachelor of Medicine (B.M.) was conferred on I. M. Sidley.

Medical News.

Dr. ALGERNON D. BRENCHLEY has been elected Master of the Society of Apothecaries of London.

As the result of an appeal for funds to endow a bed in the Leeds General Infirmary in memory of the late Mr. Walter Thompson, surgeon to the infirmary, who died in May last, Sir Berkeley Moynihan has handed the sum of £1,265 to the authorities of the institution. It is proposed to fix a memorial plate over a bed in one of the wards.

UNDER the auspices of the Fellowship of Medicine and Post-Graduate Medical Association a special course in infants' diseases, for medical officers of welfare centres and others, will be given at the Infants Hospital, Vincent Square, Westminster, from September 15th to 27th. The fee for the course will be £3 3s. The names of practitioners wishing to attend (the number will be limited to fifteen) should be sent to the secretary to the Fellowship, 1, Wimpole Street, W.1.

THE Nightingale Fund Committee of St. Thomas's Hospital has established, as an experiment, a travelling fellowship, the holder of which is to visit the United States and Canada to examine and inquire into nursing, especially in relation to public health, and to report. Miss Olive Baggallay has been appointed Nightingale Travelling Fellow, and the Battersea Borough Council, under which she is working, has granted her a year's leave for this purpose.

THE Wellcome Historical Medical Museum will be closed for cleaning and redecoration from September 1st to 30th inclusive.

ON the occasion of the eighty-eighth Congress of German Natural Science and Medicine the German Society of Epidemiology will hold its annual meeting at Innsbruck from September 23rd to 26th. Papers will be read on the objects of epidemiological investigation, by G. F. Wolter of Hamburg; on what epidemiology can learn from outbreaks on ships, by H. Gleitsmann of Kiel; on the first epidemic of syphilis (1495-97), by K. Sudhoff; and on the history of the development of epidemiology, by G. Sticker.

Dr. PIERRE LUCCHINI, writing under the name of Pierre Dominique, has obtained the Balzac prize for literature with a novel entitled *Notre Dame de la Sagesse*.

A REUTER telegram from Peking states that the American Red Cross has given 100,000 gold dollars to the fund for the relief of the flood-devastated areas in China.

THE National Association for the Prevention of Infant Mortality (117, Piccadilly, London, W.1) is arranging a post-graduate course of lectures on child welfare for health visitors, nurses, and midwives at Nottingham, Chesterfield, and Derby, from September 5th to October 4th inclusive. Particulars may be obtained from the honorary secretary, Miss Halford.

THE Automobile Association has prepared hotel location maps of England and Wales and Scotland, on which are shown the locations and classifications of the hotels appointed by the association. The maps, which are supplied free to members, serve as a "territorial" key to the alphabetical list of towns given in the A.A. Handbook, in which full particulars of tariffs, telephone numbers, classifications, etc., are to be found.

THE twelfth annual report of the British Dentists' Hospital records the large increase in the work carried on at the hospital centres and clinics during 1923, as compared with the previous year. The number of patients' attendances increased from 13,437 to 17,137, and this necessitated an increased number of sessions being held, the figure rising from 1,795 to 1,896. Progress is being made in opening new centres, and additions to the equipment of the clinics opened during war time, under arrangements with the borough councils, will result in making these clinics models of their kind. In seven London boroughs there is an arrangement for special work in connexion with the treatment of patients at the tuberculosis dispensaries. The hospital deals with the large class of persons who, possessing limited means, are unable to pay the ordinary charges of dental surgeons in private practice.

ARRANGEMENTS have been made for students of the Lahore Medical College to be received in Madras hospitals for midwifery training, since there has been difficulty in obtaining the requisite amount of this training in Lahore. The Punjab Government has now decided to set aside a sum of 1½ lakhs of rupees for the purchase of a suitable site for the erection in Lahore of a special maternity hospital.

THE second Spanish Congress of Medical Science will be held at Seville next October.

THE Tokyo Imperial University, which was destroyed in the recent earthquake, is to be reconstructed at a cost of over £4,000,000.

A NEW post-graduate hospital, to be known by the name of Sydenham, is about to be established in New York. The plans are ready and the estimated cost for building and equipment is 1,250,000 dollars.

THE *Journal of the American Medical Association* states that the curious penalty of suspension of the right to practise for a period of thirty days has been imposed on Dr. Dwight I. Roush of Springfield by the Ohio State Board of Examiners. He is, it is said, an exponent of the Abrams electronic reactions, and was charged with publishing false and misleading statements concerning the cure of incurable diseases.

THE late Mrs. Mary Frances Thorne of Lossiemouth and Heckfield, Hants, has bequeathed £1,000 each to the London Hospital and to the Royal Free Hospital, Gray's Inn Road, for the maintenance of a bed in each institution.

THE French Society of Ophthalmology will hold its thirty-eighth congress at Brussels on May 11th, 1925. Further information can be obtained from the General Secretary, Dr. René Oufroy, 6, Avenue de La Motte-Piquet, Paris VII^e.

A MEDICAL faculty has been established at the University of Omsk in Siberia.

THE seventy-seventh annual report of the Chinese Hospital, Shanghai, the oldest existing British public institution in that city, contains a report of progress in the training of nurses, three of whom were presented with certificates of the Nurses' Association of China during 1923. Sixteen male and eleven female nurses were under training during the year. The number of in-patients during that period was 2,902; out-patient visits amounted to 104,662. It is hoped that eventually the hospital may form part of a medical school for the training of Chinese doctors.

IN connexion with the Exhibition of Pure Science at Wembley, arranged by the council of the Royal Society, a handbook has been issued, containing a series of articles by well known authors intended to give some indication of the state of science at the present time. Professor E. H. Starling contributes an article on the circulation of the blood; Professors A. V. Hill and E. P. Cathcart deal with the physiology of muscular work; and Professor D. T. Harris discusses the biological action of light. Professor Irvine Masson supplies an account of the origin of the Royal Society, and an illustration of its coat of arms, granted to it by Charles II, is given. The handbook contains also a descriptive catalogue of the exhibits, and may be obtained from Messrs. A. and F. Denny, Ltd., price 1s., postage 3d.

Letters, Notes, and Answers.

ORIGINAL ARTICLES and LETTERS forwarded for publication are understood to be offered to the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL alone unless the contrary be stated. Authors desiring reprints of their articles published in the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL are requested to communicate with the Financial Secretary and Business Manager, 429, Strand, W.C.2, on receipt of proof.

Communications intended for the current issue should be posted so as to arrive by the first post on Monday or at latest be received not later than Tuesday morning.

ALL communications with reference to advertisements as well as orders for copies of the JOURNAL should be addressed to the Financial Secretary and Business Manager, 429, Strand, London, W.C. Attention to this request will avoid delay. Communications with reference to editorial business should be addressed to the Editor, BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL, 429, Strand, W.C.2.

CORRESPONDENTS who wish notice to be taken of their communications should authenticate them with their names—not necessarily for publication.

THE telephone number of the BRITISH MEDICAL ASSOCIATION and BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL is Gerrard 2630 (Internal Exchange). The telegraphic addresses are:

EDITOR of the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL, *Aitiology Westrand*, London.

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MEDICAL SECRETARY, *Medisecra Westrand*, London.

The address of the Irish Office of the British Medical Association is 16, South Frederick Street, Dublin (telegrams: *Bacillus*, Dublin; telephone 4737, Dublin), and of the Scottish Office, 6 Rutland Square, Edinburgh (telegrams: *Associate*, Edinburgh; telephone, 4361, Central).

QUERIES AND ANSWERS.

SUN BATHS.

"H. B." asks where in Great Britain treatment by sun baths can be obtained for a male adult suffering from worry and chronic nasal catarrh; nothing else.

INCOME TAX.

Damaged Motor.

"AUTOVAC" had a motor smash which wrecked his car and put it out of commission for six months. He bought a second-hand car rather than hire one for so long a period and now has the two cars. How does he stand as regards an allowance for the cost?

"* We cannot see that he has good grounds in law for a claim. The fact that he could have claimed an allowance if he had decided to hire does not affect the fact that his purchase of the second car was a "capital" transaction. If he were to sell that car at once the local inspector might agree in the special circumstances to regard the loss incurred as part of the accident cost, on grounds of equity rather than law. Strictly, however, what "Autovac" has done is to raise his equipment to a two-car standard, which will only enable him to claim a renewal allowance on that basis (instead of on a single-car basis) in future.

Motor Car Allowances.

"H. F. A." inquires (a) as to the allowance to be made in respect of a motor car being purchased on the hire instalment system, and (b) as to an allowance for the fact that the car is driven by the practitioner's wife.

"* (a) No allowance is due for depreciation, as the statutes discriminate between traders, etc. (Case 1, Schedule D), and professional men (Case 2, Schedule D). If the purchased car is in fact a replacement of an old car we are of opinion that the instalments of the purchase price are allowable, subject to any proper adjustment in respect of capital if the car is of better grade than the old one. (b) If the wife does in fact receive wages to the amount of £45 per annum for driving the car, and such wages are reasonable in amount having regard to all the circumstances, the allowance of £45 can be claimed, but not otherwise.

Succession: Partner's Expenses.

"R. W. F." inquires (1) as to the basis of assessment, and (2) as to expenses incurred by himself in doing partnership work.

"* (1) Successors to a practice are assessable on the basis of the earnings of the three previous years, notwithstanding the change. It is, however, open to them to lodge an application at the end of the first year of the new partnership (as also at the end of the second and third) if they can show that the profits have fallen short from some specific cause, and thereon to have the assessment reduced to the amount of the actual profits. (2) A deduction should be made for expenses properly incurred by a partner in doing his share of the work of the practice; locomotion expenses are nearly always dealt with in this way. The expenses must be deducted in calculating the profits of each of the years entering into the three years' average, or of the